

recycling collection guidelines

why recycle?

Recycling saves natural resources, creates jobs and reduces greenhouse gas emissions! Last year, Cambridge residents recycled over 17,000,000 pounds of paper and containers.

This reduced over 8,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions equal to removing nearly 6,200 cars from the road. This saved 159,888 trees and 25,239 barrels of oil.

important tips:

- Set recycling out by 7am on your collection day or as early as 3pm the day before.
- Do not place papers, containers or yard waste in plastic bags.
- Collection is delayed one day during holiday weeks.
- “Close the loop” by purchasing products made from recycled materials.

the drop off center:

The drop off center accepts many materials not accepted curbside including: books, clothing, flags, fluorescent bulbs, mercury devices, motor oil, non-alkaline batteries, plastic bags, and styrofoam. **Proof of residency required upon request.**

Open hours:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-7:30pm
- Saturdays 9-4pm

Located in the rear of the Public Works yard. At all other times, the yard is closed to the public.

recycling paper and cardboard:



what to recycle:

- **paperboard** (cereal, tissue and shoe boxes, etc.)
- **newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail**
- **beverage containers, drink boxes, milk/juice cartons**
- **all office paper** (no blueprints)
- **cardboard** (no pizza boxes)

No need to remove staples, paper clips, spirals or even the plastic windows on envelopes!

how to prepare your paper and cardboard:

- place in **paper bags** or tie with string (**no plastic bags**)
- flatten cardboard and cut to 3' X 3' or smaller. no pizza boxes.



recycling glass, metal, and plastics:



what to recycle:

- **aluminum** pie plates, trays and foil
- **aerosol cans** (empty)
- **glass containers** (all colors)
- **metal cans** including tin, steel and aluminum
- **milk, water and juice jugs**
- stiff **plastic containers** (#1-#7)

how to prepare your containers:

- **rinse** and **remove lids and caps**
- place items **loose** in bin
- when possible, wipe out oily or greasy containers with a cloth
- do not empty grease into drains

Do not place containers in plastic or paper bags.

recycling yard waste:



what to recycle:

- **leaves, grass** and **plants**
- **shrub prunings** and **twigs** (thinner than your thumb, shorter than your arm)
- **do not include:** tree stumps, rocks, soil, food or trash

how to prepare your yard waste:

- place in barrels marked with red yard waste stickers or use **paper yard waste bags**
- face stickers to street and do not staple or tape bags
- **bundle** thick tree limbs 2 ft X 2 ft
- **yard waste is not accepted in plastic bags and will not be picked up by rubbish or recycling crews**

Yard waste is only collected spring to early winter. Call 617.349.4879 or visit our website for exact dates.

Missed Recycling or Yard Waste? Need another bin or a broken one replaced? Call 617.349.4800

items not accepted for curbside recycling:

- no pizza boxes
- no plastic bags
- no styrofoam
- no broken glass
- no window glass
- no plant pots
- no clothes hangers
- no dishes and glasses
- no light bulbs
- no paint cans
- no pots and pans
- no plastic toys
- no pyrex
- no paper take-out containers
- no hard cover books

here's the wrong way to prepare recycling:



Do not mix containers and papers. Place rinsed containers loose in bin and papers in paper bag or tie with string. No plastic bags, styrofoam or other trash.

If your bin looks like this, it will not be collected.

www.cambridgema.gov/theworks

.... click on divisions, then recycling!

trash collection guidelines

Please recycle all paper waste, cardboard, glass, plastic and metal containers. Your efforts will save the City money and preserve natural resources! Help reduce waste by donating items in good or working condition such as furniture, appliances, computers, TVs, clothing and other household goods. Visit DPW’s extensive “Donate & Recycle Listings” on our website or call for information.

the city will pick up:

- one piece of furniture per week
- carpets (cut, rolled & tied)
- chairs (1 per week per stop)
- lumber (1 bundle, 2' x 2')
- mattress & boxspring
- thick tree limbs (3 bundles, 2' x 2')
- toilets & sinks (1 toilet or 1 sink per week)
- sofas (1 per week per stop)

call a private hauler for:

- automotive parts & tires
- boilers & furnaces
- construction & demolition debris including: bathtubs, floor sandings, kitchen cabinets, pipes, sawdust, soot and sheetrock (contractors are responsible for disposal)
- fluorescent bulbs (bring to drop off center or hazardous waste day)
- tree trunks & stumps

paint:

Oil-based paint contains toxic chemicals, bring to hazardous waste collection day.

Water-based: Bring to hazardous waste collection day or remove lid and let evaporate outdoors. Set out hardened paint cans (lids removed) with regular trash.

small computers & televisions:

One TV or monitor picked up per week per household with a diagonal screen length of 20 inches or less for recycling on your regular collection day. Hard drives, keyboards, and printers 40 lbs or less accepted. For large monitors, TVs, printers and copiers, call to purchase a sticker and schedule pick up.

recycling motor oil:

Bring motor oil with your receipt to the original point of purchase. State law requires retailers to accept and recycle it for free. Oil generated from residential use only can also be brought to DPW (Monday-Friday, 8:30-5pm) or to the Drop-Off Center (Tues/Thurs 4-7:30pm, Sat 9-4pm).

items requiring stickers for removal (\$20, \$15 for seniors)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| • clothes washers & dryers | • gas lawnmowers & snow blowers (must remove gas) | • small copiers |
| • dehumidifiers | • metal filing cabinets & desks | • trash compactors |
| • dishwashers | • printers (more than 40 lbs) | • water coolers & heaters |
| • freezers (must remove door) | • radiators | • window air conditioners |
| • gas & electric stoves | • refrigerators (must remove door) | • tvs & computer monitors (over 20" diagonal screen length) |

Purchase stickers at 147 Hampshire Street, during regular office hours. Cash, checks or Visa/MasterCard accepted. Make checks payable to the City of Cambridge.

There is a limited amount of space each week for appliances. The City does not pick up industrial size appliances. Schedule pickup early or call before to ensure that there is space on the list.

Scheduled pickups for stickered items occur between 7am-3pm. Appliances are scheduled for Wednesdays and large TVs/computers for Thursdays. Set out by 7am on scheduled pickup day or as early as 3pm the day before. **Need to reschedule? Call 617.349.4800 with the sticker number ready.**

for your information:

Removing doors from refrigerators and freezers is mandated by state law to reduce potential danger to children. Failure to do so can result in a fine up to \$1000.

Appliances are banned from state landfills and incinerators because the freon inside is destructive to the upper ozone atmosphere. The City hires a licensed technician to remove the freon from all appliances before they are sent for recycling.

\$25/day fines may be invoked if:

Items requiring a sticker (see list above) are placed at the curb too early or do not have a sticker; or if hazardous waste, rejected recycling, or items requiring a private hauler are left at the curb.

household hazardous waste:

Several annual collections are held at 450 Concord Ave. Visit our website or call for dates and materials not accepted. Materials accepted include:



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| • adhesives & glues | • paints (oil & latex) |
| • car tires (4 per household) | • stain thinners & strippers |
| • engine degreaser | • photo chemicals & chemistry sets |
| • fluorescent bulbs (accepted at drop off center) | • poison, insecticides & weed killers |
| • fuels (kerosene, gasoline, antifreeze) | • pool chemicals |
| • hobby & art supplies | • propane tanks (20 lbs or less) |
| • household cleaners & spot removers | • solvents & varnishes |
| • non-alkaline & car batteries | • wood preservatives & fiberglass resins |

To ensure safety: never smoke while handling items; avoid spills by tightening caps and lids; never mix chemicals; use original labeled containers; do not put in trash bags; and sort and pack paint, pesticides and household cleaners separately. Pack your vehicle and go directly to the collection site.



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recycling and trash guidelines



www.cambridgema.gov/theworks

617.349.4800

tty/tdd 617.349.4005

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139